

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination of the application.

Claims 2, 13, and 21 have been amended, as more particularly described below.

The Examiner has objected to the Specification, paragraph 21, lines 19-20, stating that the phrase “the claimant believes that” should be omitted. Applicant has omitted this phrase, which renders this objection moot.

The Examiner has objected to Claims 2, 13, and 21. These claims have been amended to clarify that the illumination angle refers to the angle of the cone of light produced by the LEDs. Applicant believes this clarification renders these objections moot.

Independent claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Nolan (US Publication 2003/00721145). Claim 2 has been amended to teach that Applicant’s array of LEDs uniformly lights the translucent panel without the use of a diffusion panel, or any other object, in the space between the array and the panel. In contrast, Nolan teaches the use of a diffusion panel (70) in such space and, therefore, cannot read on Applicant’s amended claim 2.

Further, Nolan teaches that the colorized diffusion panel is necessary to spread white LED light with a fuller color spectrum of visible light over an illuminated area. Nolan is designed to achieve maximum forward illumination. Applicant's invention claims a fixture with a translucent panel which is itself uniformly lighted, whereas Nolan's diffusion panel was only for the purpose of light colorizing and was not claimed to be uniformly lit. Nolan neither describes nor illustrates how to uniformly light a translucent panel, nor does it describe the orientation of the LEDs or their illumination angle to prevent hot spots of light, as does the present invention.

Figure 1 of Nolan only teaches that the fixture, when flush mounted in a ceiling, includes a housing (illustrated in Figure 6) which includes within it a colorized diffusion panel. Nolan neither refers to nor implies a uniformly lit translucent panel, and requires a "colorized diffusion panel," which is an entirely different structural component. The uniformly lit translucent panel of the present invention does not require a colorized diffusion panel and is not a derivation of Nolan's colorized diffusion panel.

Nolan also contains no teaching regarding the illumination angle of the LED lamps used in his device. He states [par. 0029, l. 16-18] his LEDs are defined to include those of any size, lumen output or shape, without any reference or teaching of illumination angle.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 2 based on Nolan and requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 3, 5, 7, 9-10, 13, and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Nolan in view of McManigal. Claims 11-12, 21-22, and 24-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Damadian in view of Nolan. Claims 17-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Damadian in view of Nolan and McManigal.

All of the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections depend upon Nolan. As stated previously, Nolan teaches the use of a diffusion panel, whereas Applicant's invention does not require the use of such a diffusion panel. Further, Nolan does not teach the use of an array of LEDs having an illumination angle of approximately fifty degrees or greater arranged in a pattern of rows in order to eliminate hot spots and to obtain a uniform distribution of light, as do Applicant's amended independent claims 2, 13, and 21. In addition, neither McManigal nor Damadian contains such teachings. A *prima facie* case for 35 U.S.C. § 103, therefore, does not exist for any of Applicant's claims since the cited references do not contain all of the limitations of the Applicant's independent claims. In view of these considerations, all other rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 103 are now moot.

Applicant believes the claims are now in allowable form and respectfully requests that all rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Further, with regard to claim 20, Nolan teaches that the low voltage DC converter is contained within his light fixture, thereby requiring AC current to be brought to the fixture. Applicant's invention is designed and teaches that it is powered by a remote DC source. In other words, Nolan incorporates the transformer into the fixture itself, while Applicant's invention powers the fixture by a remote DC source. This difference is significant as it relates to the present invention's use in MRI rooms.

Nolan is different from the present invention because the present invention is structured to allow for an LED fixture to be placed in an MRI field without shielding. In contrast, Nolan's LED light fixture requires shielding because Nolan teaches that the AC-DC transformer is within the fixture itself, whereas in the present invention, the transformer is remote and can, therefore, be located outside the MRI Faraday shield.

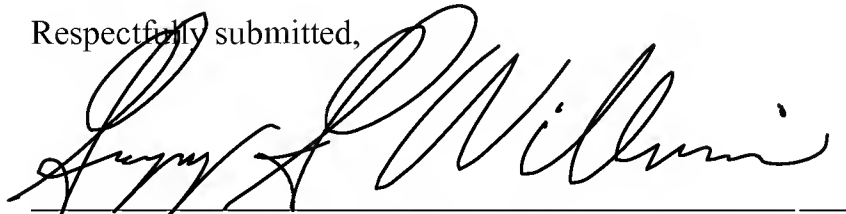
With regard to Damadian, Damadian does not refer to a predetermined rectangular ceiling tile frame as a component of a fixture. Damadian's only references to "ceiling" are: Col. 7, l. 33-44; Col. 7, l. 58; and Col. 8, l. 62-63.

In addition, neither McManigal nor Damadian teaches the use of LEDs. In view of Applicant's amended independent claims 2, 13, and 21, no combination of the Nolan, McManigal, and Damadian references constitutes a prima facie case of

obviousness because these references do not contain all of the limitations of Applicant's amended independent claims, and thus also all dependent claims.

In light of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that all pending claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory G. Williams", written over a horizontal line.

Gregory G. Williams, Reg. No. 31,681
SIMMONS PERRINE PLC
Third Floor Tower Place
22 South Linn Street
Iowa City, Iowa 52240
Telephone: (319) 887-1368
Facsimile: (319) 887-1372